

A WORD BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear readers,

the Magazine *illuminatio/Svjetionik/Almanar* is taking its second step in a marathon on the path of new ideas about faith, morality, art, nation, society and state. We cannot hide either our nervousness or our curiosity from the first step. The trepidation was the fear that we would not meet your expectations, and the curiosity was the desire to hear your objective criticism. Apart from two attempts at flat criticism burdened with old and new prejudices, we no longer have reason to fear. On the contrary, we have gained the confidence that we dare and can walk freely with our heads held high because the Magazine *illuminatio/Svjetionik/Almanar* knows its goal. Our curiosity, on the other hand, is satisfied by a review and analytical critique in one of the renowned, world-famous journals focused on works on religion, under the direction of Dr. Paul Mojzes, both the editorial board and the editorial policy. This journal began its publishing in 1981 at George Fox University, based in Newberg, Oregon, USA (founded in 1891). The contents of the review can be found at the following address: „Journal Review: *illuminatio/Svjetionik/Almanar*: The Journal for New Ideas,“ *Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe*: vol. 40: no. 7, Article 10. Available at: <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/ree/vol40/iss7/10>. In this issue, we bring the Bosnian translation and the original English text of this review.

Of course, the positive criticism of a reputable Journal, such as OPREE (Digital Commons @ George Fox University),

represents significant international recognition. Domestic reactions were mostly oral, with a slight astonishment as to where our bilingual illustrated magazine came from, where some of the illustrations have not „seen the light of day“ so far. Academician Mehmed Akšamija made sure that these illustrations were seen as an expression of the Bosnian and Islamic message to the world that Bosnia and Bosniaks are part of a respectable civilizational and cultural heritage not only from the past, but also in the present and future. Let us remember what George Orwell said: „Who controls the past, controls the future: who controls the present, controls the past“.

This spark of Orwell's satire "1984" from 1949 is a condemnation of totalitarianism, which presupposes a rewriting of history to accommodate the needs of a one-minded present and future. In order for this not to happen, reasonable people must not be passive, but must read the history with an open mind in order to understand the past with truth, and not through someone else's mind, and thus control their present and future. It is a concept we call „**taşdîq**“, an affirmative history based on a true story, which can be proven through truth-loving "cultural brokers".

The Magazine *illuminatio/Svjetionik/Almanar* intends to be just that: a "cultural broker" of universal values with new and fresh ideas, as a concept of „**tajdid**“, the renovation. For he who has no new ideas, who has no progressive initiatives in conversation with others, will

always be at the tail end of history, will always be a slave and not a master of his present and future. It is not unknown that today we are faced with a pile of lies and perversions aimed at controlling individual and collective thought, which, if it continues like this, will ultimately destroy humanity. This manipulation is neither open nor loud, but an insidious predator who wants to seize other people's historical and cultural treasures through false stories, especially among those who, due to helplessness or negligence, delegate their life problems to others, thus renouncing their right of the ownership of solutions that would be in their interest. We do not imagine that we have solutions to present and future of the Bosnian and world problems, but we do have the will to rule our present and future through the truth about our past. We have the will to live because when one day the people want to live: ***Destiny will respond to them; Night will end by then; Because shackles will be broken by them.*** Those who have that light in their spirit and mind may read and follow us.

That is why we offer you to read in this issue by Academician Akšamija his continuous analysis of the terms „Islamic Art“ and „Art of Islam“, with a new and original idea of *homo islamicus* as well as a possible understanding of his way of creative work.

Academician Ferid Muhić also continues with his treatment of the issue of Bosniakness and Bosnia from a philosophical and political aspect.

This issue of the Magazine is, in a special way, enriched by the extraordinary study of Prof. Dr. Ugo Vlaisavljević on the gift of sacrificial („*kurbān*“) meat in terms of ethnological reflection.

Also, the novelty of this second: issue is the participation of two eminent scholars the American Leonard Swidler, an internationally recognized expert on interreligious dialogue, who warns us that without dialogue there is no salvation for us; and German Stefan Jakob Wimmer, who explains how coexistence of religion and secular state is possible.

Bearing in mind that the motto of this Magazine is „the light of spirit and mind,“ readers are offered the idea in this issue of how the human heart may become a place of love instead of hatred; how the human mind may become a place of acceptable instead of unacceptable thinking; and how the human hand may become a means of justice instead of injustice.

On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Dayton, Mirsad Kriještorac made an interesting analysis of the Dayton Peace Agreement for Bosnia specially for this issue with an interesting proposal, which could provoke a serious attention of both the domestic and international public.

Mirnes Kovač not only translated into Bosnian one of the best books, written by Juan Cole, about the peaceful personality of Muhammad, peace be upon him, but for this issue he made a review of that book to bring our readers closer to this remarkable work about the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, whom some attack precisely because most of the people love him.

Dear readers,

we hope that you "for us" are ready that we continue together our spiritual and intellectual marathon to the finish line under the mission of „light of spirit and mind“, so that our soul may be satisfied with its Lord, as well as its Lord with it. We cannot but express our gratitude to Grand Mufti Huseien Kavazović for his support on this joint venture of enlightenment. As never before, today we need each other on this thorny and long road to reach the noble goal. **God willing!**

We also owe our gratitude to our friends from Kuwait, who are helping us to develop the idea of *Wasaṭiyya* in Bosnia. The project of this Magazine is proof that the ***Center for Dialogue – Wasaṭiyya*** fulfills its goal and the expectations of its founder.

Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe

In publication since 1981, Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe is a multidisciplinary journal devoted to exploring religious issues, including interreligious dialogue, religious life and behavior, and religious institutions, in Eastern Europe (including the former Soviet Union), and published online by George Fox University on behalf of OPREE's Editorial Board.

Journal Review: Illuminatio/Svjeticnik /Almanar: The Journal for New Ideas.

[Ibrahim Karatas](#)

Journal Review: Illuminatio/Svjeticnik/Alamanar: Časopis novih ideja

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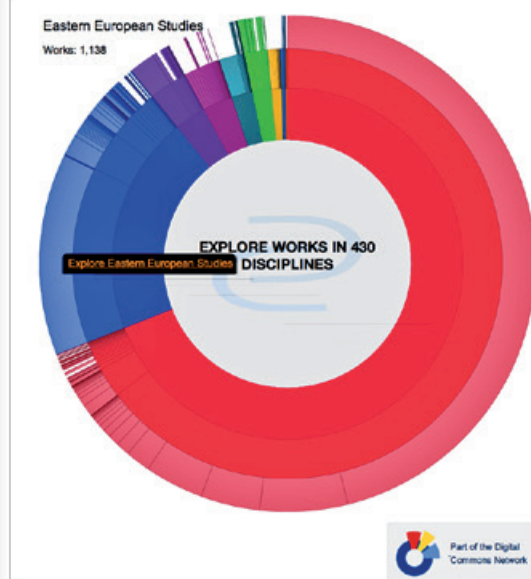
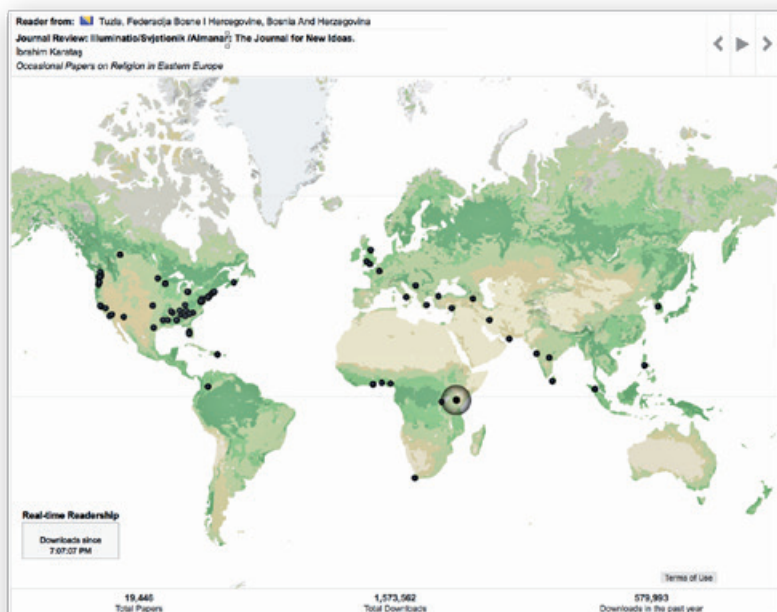
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- Minor Letnica: (Re)Locating The Tradition Of Shared Worship In North Macedonia, Ksenia Trofimova Jul 2020
- Serbian Orthodoxy Between Two Worlds, Marko P. Djurić Apr 2018
- Islam As A Way Of Defining The National Identity Of Bosnian Muslims, Athanasios G. Athanasiadis Nov 2014
- Haji Bekdash Veli And The Bekdash Path In Albania And Macedonia, Arben Jan 2014



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JOURNAL REVIEW

Illuminatio/Svjetionik/Almanar: The Journal for New Ideas. Published by Al- Wasatiyya Center for Dialogue, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Vol. I, No. 1 (Spring 2020). ISSN 2712-1321 (Print)/ ISSN 2712-133X (Online).

Reviewer: Dr. İbrahim Karataş, Istanbul, Turkey.

This is a review of the first issue of the academic online journal *Illuminatio* (*Svjetionik* in Bosnian and *Almanar* in Arabic). It began publication in 2020, and will be published twice a year by Al-Wasatiyya Center for Dialogue based in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The journal is bilingual and appears in Bosnian and English. The Editor-in-Chief is Mustafa Cerić, who was the Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1999 to 2012 and holds a Ph.D. in Islamic Studies at the University of Chicago. The other editors and the advisory board of the journal are prestigious local and international scholars of theology and philosophy from different religions. The stated purpose of journal is to support new ideas about religion, morality, art, nation, society, and state. The magazine aims to affirm Islamic tradition (*taṣdīq*) as well as to explore innovations of social and political thoughts (*tajdīd*) through academic articles of scholars studying religion, philosophy, ethics, history, culture, art, statehood, and humanities in the context of Bosnian, regional, and international events. In an introductory section on page 13, the goal of *Illuminatio* is explained, as to:

revive the pure spirit in the human soul and to enlighten the pure mind in the human heart by reminding the soul of its primordial Covenant with God Almighty and stimulating the mind to seek the right path to the realization of the transcendental truth through the theory and practice of *taṣdīq*, i.e. the assertion of divine tradition, and the theory and practice of *tajdīd*, i.e. the renovation of human thought in the service of present and future spiritual and humanistic cause, as well as in the service of a truthful individual as well as a healthy social life.

Another goal of *Illuminatio* is to promote opinions of Muslim scholars, ulema, while it also declares that it is open to non-Muslim thinkers from theology and from disciplines of social sciences. While emphasizing that the Islamic worldview has a specific advantage over other views, especially with regard to monotheism (*tawḥīd*), the journal states that interfaith and intercultural dialogue is a basic intention of *Illuminatio*. The editors underline the need for other worldviews as nobody possesses the whole truth. They say that alternative thoughts are necessary for global peace and security. The table of content of this issue consist of:

Mustafa Cerić, "The Light of Spirit and Mind: An Introduction".

Mehmed Akšamija, "An Analysis of Terminological Determinants 'Art of Islam' and 'Islamic Art'".

Ferid Muhić, "Bosniaks and Bosnia: A Study in Philosophy of Politics".

Mustafa Cerić, "The Time of Dialectical Spiritualism: From Medina to Mecca Charter".

Ekrem Tucaković, "Synthetic and Contextual Studies of Islam in Educational Institutions of the Islamic Community".

Ahmed Kulanić, "The Core tenets of Islamic Tradition of Bosniaks: Attitudes, Perceptions and Practices".

Ahmed Alibašić, "Neither Violent nor Docile, but an Empowered Islam" a book review of Shabbir Akhtar, *Islam as a Political Religion: The Future of an Imperial Religion*.

Looking briefly at the content of some of the articles published in the first issue, we see that Mehmed A. Akšamija analyzes the concept of 'art' and concludes that its meaning is different in Islamic civilization when compared to other civilizations. Ferid Muhić discusses the concepts of nation and state and argues that universal nationality, culture, and civilization do not erode awareness of a specific culture and nation. He compares the membership of the European Union and EU citizenship to support his views. Ekrem Tucaković argues that educational institutions of Bosnia's Islamic Community should offer their model based on their deep experience and authentic understanding of Islam and Islamic intellectual tradition since such a model cannot be offered by Europe. Ahmet Kulanić bases his article on a survey to reveal whether there are regional, gender, and age differences among Bosniac Muslims in terms of their religious beliefs and practices. Mustafa Cerić discusses 'dialectical spiritualism' as opposed to Marxist 'dialectical materialism,' and argues that it is time for humanity to meet the *Zeitgeist* (Spirit of the Age), which is "the Spirit of Peace" among religions and nations across the globe. He calls Muslim scholars to adapt to new circumstances and invites them to be open to interfaith dialogue without damaging fundamental tenets of the Islamic faith.

Most of the five articles and the book review discuss both Bosnia's domestic religious issues and universal topics such as nation, state, and interreligious dialogue. The goal of promoting interreligious dialogue is considered controversial by some Islamic leaders, who are not warm to the term. For example, Cerić's Turkish counterpart, Mehmet Görmez, former head of the Turkish Presidency of Religious Affairs, argues that there cannot be a dialogue between faiths, but only between clerics since interfaith dialogue means transforming religions to each other. Therefore, Cerić may further wish to clarify what he means as the term does have many opponents in certain Muslim scholarly circles, yet also has many admirers as a bridge building tool. For Bosnia and Herzegovina's multireligious population dialogue is certainly a better alternative than recourse to war and genocide.

Concerning technical issues there are two options on sequencing English and Bosnian versions of articles. They can be set out one after each other. Instead they were arranged in parallel pages so that the left page is in Bosnian and the right page is in English. Some may consider it difficult to read. Yet for readers who know both languages it enables them to easily compare the accuracy of the translation. Bosnian being closely related to other languages of the former Yugoslavia makes the journal accessible to many more readers in the region. Authors can submit articles in either of the languages; competent translations are provided by the editor. One can assume the later issues will have a larger number of international authors.

Illuminatio/Svjetionik/Almanar uses art not merely as illustrations but for aesthetic and historical reasons and therefore their number is large. The art (mostly Islamic) is luxurious. Some of Bosnia's best graphic artists were engaged to design the publication. This journal will supplement the other Islamic periodic literature published in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is therefore a welcome idea. Thanks to the journal, Bosnian and foreign scholars will have a platform, on which to raise their views about Islam and other religions.